Inclusion of oil and gas in GATS of WTO

4760. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has suggested that India should ask for inclusion of the oil and natural gas sector as an independent classification under the General agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) at the ongoing World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations; and

(b) if so, in what manner this would help the oil and natural gas sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, sir.

(b) Independent classification of oil and gas sector under GATS has been suggested for the following important reasons :

(i) Oil and gas has emerged as a very vital sector for developing economies and therefore, requires focussed attention.

(ii) It will give clarity to identify and focus on issues relating to energy services in the process of WTO negotiations.

LPG requirement of AP

4761. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the monthly requirement of LPG in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what is the LPG bottling capacity of the State, Oil Company-wise;

(c) whether bottling capacity in the State fulfils the demand of the State; and

(d) if not, what alternative arrangements are being made to meet the full demand in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) The present monthly requirement of LPG of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in the State of Andhra Pradesh is 56.5 Thousand Metric Tonne (TMT).

(b) The total bottling capacity available with OMCs in the State of Andhra Pradesh is 574 Thousand Metric Tonne Per Annum (TMTPA).

(c) and (d) OMCs are extending the hospitality assistance to each other to meet their requirement in the State. However, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is also taking the supplies from their own bottling plant at